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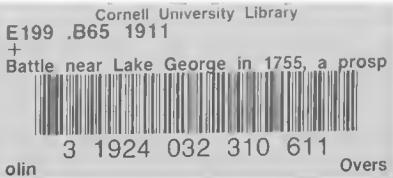
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THE
BATTLE NEAR LAKE GEORGE

IN 1755

A PROSPECTIVE PLAN
WITH AN EXPLANATION THEREOF

By SAMUEL BLODGET

OCCASIONALLY AT THE CAMP WHEN
THE BATTLE WAS
FOUGHT



REPRINTED IN FACSIMILE FROM THE
EDITION PUBLISHED IN LONDON BY THOMAS JEFFERY'S IN 1756
WITH A PREFATORY NOTE
By HENRY N. STEVENS, F.R.G.S.



LONDON HENRY STEVENS, SON & STILES
39 GREAT RUSSELL STREET, OVER AGAINST THE SOUTH-WEST
CORNER OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM

1911

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PREFATORY NOTE

THE BATTLE NEAR LAKE GEORGE on the 8th of September 1755, when General Johnson turned the tables on the French after the disastrous defeat of General Braddock on the 9th of July, has always been regarded by historians as a most important incident in the campaigns which eventually culminated in the loss to France of all her possessions in North America.

The most interesting and reliable contemporary account of the Battle is undoubtedly Samuel Blodget's "Prospective Plan . . . with an Explanation thereof, containing a full, though short, History of that important Affair." Blodget was present at the camp as a sutler, and during the battle (to quote his own words) "had, it may be, as good an Opportunity as any Person whatever, to observe the whole Management on both Sides; especially as I took my Post at the Eminence where the Field-Piece was planted, from whence I could, with Advantage, view the Action, in all its Parts, from the Beginning to the End of it."

On his return to Boston, Blodget appears to have lost no time in having his sketches of the Battle engraved by *Thomas Johnston* and his explanatory notes printed in pamphlet form by *Richard Draper*, for in the "Boston Gazette" of December 22, 1755, appears the following announcement:

THIS DAY PUBLISH'D,

And Sold by SAMUEL BLODGET, at the South End of *Boston*, near the Sign of the Lamb, and opposite to Capt. *Smith's*. A prospective PLAN of 2 of the Engagements the *English* had with the *French* at *Lake-George* on the 8th of *September* 1755; exhibiting to the Eye a very lively as well as just Representation of them; together with Part of the Lake, the Camp, the Situation of each Regiment, with the Disadvantages attending them: The Appearance of the *Canadians*, *Indians* and Regulars, as they made

their Approach to the Brest-work; the Form of the Land and the Enemy; together with the Advantage they had in their Ambuscade against Col. Williams. As also a PLAN of *Hudson's-River* from *New-York* to *Albany*; with such Marks as will be of great Service to Navigation: Likewise the River and Waggon Road from *Albany* to *Lake George*; together with a Plan and Situation of each of the Forts that have been lately built. All which is carefully and neatly struck off from a large Copper Plate. N.B. There will be Sold with each Plan a printed Pamphlet with Explanatory Notes, containing a full, tho' short History of that important Affair from the Beginning to the End of it. The above Map, together with the Pamphlets, may be had of the Printers hereof.

In an "Advertisement" dated BOSTON *November 10, 1755*, which is printed on the back of the title-page of the "Explanation," Blodget further states "I herewith offer to the Public a visible Representation of two of the Engagements the English had with the French, on the 8th of last September, with explanatory Notes; by the Help of which any one, who will be at the Pains to compare what is said under each Figure with the corresponding Figure on the Prospective Plan, may easily be let into a clear Idea of this whole Affair. The Representation I have given, whether as appearing to the Eye in this Plan, or to the Mind in the descriptive Notes, contains the real Truth. . . . As the Action near Lake George is the greatest, in its Kind, that ever happened in North-America, it is hoped, the Prospect and Account, here given of it, will not be unacceptable, unless to those who don't wish well to his Britannick Majesty's Interest in these Parts of the World."

It was not till quite recent times that Blodget's quaint Plan and Explanation were re-discovered. In the *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Second Series, Vol. 5, Boston, 1890, page 416*, Dr. Samuel A. Green gives a facsimile of the Plan, with an interesting account¹ of how a copy of the original was found in a bound volume of the "Boston Gazette" for 1755, which formerly belonged to the Rev. Abiel Holmes, D.D., and had been presented to the Society by his son in 1883. Fortunately the Society was already in possession of the "Explanation," for a copy, together with other pamphlets once owned by the Rev. Jeremy Belknap, D.D., had been presented by his daughter in 1858. The Plan and pamphlet on being compared were found beyond all doubt to belong together, and to explain each other by the

¹ A few copies were also struck off in separate pamphlet form for presentation.

corresponding reference numbers common to both. Dr. Green adds some further interesting personal details of Blodget and Johnston. In 1902, in his "Ten Fac-simile Reproductions relating to New England," Dr. Green issued another facsimile of the Plan (slightly reduced) with some additional notes. Unfortunately he does not reprint Blodget's explanatory pamphlet, so that the interest of the Plan is to a great extent lost for the want of the key to the reference numbers.

The original Boston Plan and pamphlet seem to have quickly attracted the notice of Thomas Jefferys the enterprising Map Publisher of London, for he reprinted them without delay, the Plan bearing date Feb. 2 1756. In the course of a long experience several copies of Jefferys' issue of the Plan have come under my observation, but I never met with the "Explanation" till a copy of it, together with the Plan, was found in a large Collection of Maps which my firm acquired at the Sale of the Library of the Rt. Hon. Lord Polwarth at Sotheby's Auction Rooms in London on February 15th, 1909 (*Lot 182*). From that copy the present facsimile has been made.

The London issue of the Plan has several times been reproduced in historical works, mostly in a reduced and mutilated form, without any indication of its origin and without the key to the references.¹ A comparison of Jefferys' issue with the Boston edition shows (as Dr. Green puts it) that "in general features it is the same as the original Plan, but the engraver has taken many liberties with it." The size of the Boston original as given by Dr. Green is $17\frac{5}{8} \times 13\frac{5}{8}$ inches, while Jefferys' plate measures $20\frac{1}{8} \times 11$. In the original the title is at the bottom in three lines within the border, and a map of Hudson River runs across the top, with insets of Forts Edward and William Henry in the top right corner. A Dedication to Governor William Shirley occupies the lower left corner. In Jefferys' edition the title is in two lines across the top, outside the border line. The map of Hudson River is removed to the left-hand side of the Plate, running from top to bottom. The Plans of Forts Edward and William Henry are placed near the lower left corner and the Dedication to Shirley is altogether omitted.

I have not had an opportunity of comparing the London "Explanation" with a perfect copy of the Boston original, but as the reference numbers on both issues of the Plan are identical, I cannot but suppose that the text is the

¹ Cf. Bancroft's *History of the United States*, Vol. 4 (1852), page 210—Bryant and Gay's *Popular History of the United States*, Vol. 3, p. 288—O'Callaghan's *Documentary History of the State of New York*, Vol. 4, p. 169—Hough's edition of Pouchot's *Memoir*, Vol. 1, p. 47—*Third Annual Report of the State Historian of the State of New York*, 1897, p. 504, etc., etc.

same in both. In fact, in the British Museum there is (at 1197, i, 18) an imperfect copy of the "Explanation" containing only the 5 pages of text, which I presume to be the Boston original without the title leaf. As compared with Jefferys' edition the impression is quite distinct although the subject matter, including the references, is apparently exactly the same. The head-piece of page 1 is a row of type ornaments three-eighths of an inch deep, extending the whole width of the type measure. The second line of the heading ends *September 8, 1755*: and at the foot of the second column on page 5 are two full lines of asterisks. The verso of page 5 is blank. The title-page being missing, and the name Blodget not appearing elsewhere, the tract was catalogued as an anonymous publication under *GEORGE Lake*, where I had at first overlooked it. There is no copy of the Jefferys edition in the British Museum.

It is hoped that the present reprint may prove useful as a key to the copies of the Plan preserved in various Libraries, also to the several reproductions in the above-mentioned historical works. As to the Plan itself, Jefferys refers to it as "the only Piece that exhibits the American method of Bush Fighting." It was subsequently reissued by Sayer and Jefferys in "A General Topography of North America" published by them in 1768, where it forms plate No. 27.

In conclusion I desire to acknowledge my obligation to Dr. Green and to tender to him my thanks for the use I have made of his valuable Notes on the original Boston Plan and pamphlet.

HENRY N. STEVENS.

LONDON

20 May 1911.



A
P R O S P E C T I V E - P L A N

O F T H E

Battle near Lake *George*,

O N T H E

Eighth Day of *September*, 1755.

W I T H A N

E X P L A N A T I O N thereof;

C O N T A I N I N G

A full, though short, History of that important Affair.

By *Samuel Blodget*,

Occasionally at the Camp, when the Battle was fought.

BOSTON, NEW-ENGLAND, printed;
LONDON, re-printed for T. JEFFERYS, at the Corner of St. Martin's-Lane.
MDCCCLVI.

[Price One Shilling.]

A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

I Herewith offer to the Public a visible Representation of two of the Engagements the English had with the French, on the 8th of last September, with explanatory Notes; by the Help of which any one, who will be at the Pains to compare what is said under each Figure with the corresponding Figure in the Prospective-Plan, may easily be let into a clear Idea of this whole Affair.

The Representation I have given, whether as appearing to the Eye in this Plan, or to the Mind in the descriptive Notes, contains the real Truth. I was myself present in the Camp; and though I could not be in the Front, and Rear, and on either Wing, at the same Time, yet being an independent Person, not belonging to the Army, I had, it may be, as good an Opportunity as any Person whatever, to observe the whole Management on both Sides; especially as I took my Post at the Eminence where the Field-Piece was planted, from whence I could, with Advantage, view the Action, in all its Parts, from the Beginning to the End of it: Though I must confess, the thick Smoke, which arose from the Discharge of so many Guns on both Sides, rendered the Sight less clear than I could have wished; and I was often interrupted by taking Care, that the Guards, beginning at the above Eminence, kept to Order, and attended their Duty. I have not therefore contented myself with my own Observations, but made it my Busines to converse with those, at the Camp, who were most capable of enabling me to give a fair and full Account of the Transactions of this memorable Day. After all, I may have fallen into some smaller Mistakes; though I am not sensible of any such. I am sure, I have no sinister End to serve, nor do I know of any Thing that should bias me to vary in the least from the Truth of Fact.

As to the Fight of the Detachment of which Col. Williams had the chief Command, I am beholden to others, but of the best Character in the Army, for the Account I have given of it; and I received it immediately from their Mouths: Though I was myself well acquainted with the Ground upon which they fought, and viewed the Dead as they lay after the Battle was over.

What I have said of the last Engagement also, in which a Party of our Men from Lyman's Fort drove off the Ground, and routed, double the Number of the Enemy, I had from those that were present at it, best able, and most disposed, to represent the Matter as it really was.

As the Action near Lake GEORGE is the greatest, in its Kind, that ever happened in NORTH-AMERICA, it is hoped, the Prospect and Account, here given of it, will not be unacceptable, unless to those who don't wish well to his Britannick Majesty's Interest in these Parts of the World.

BOSTON,
November 10, 1755.

S A M U E L B L O D G E T.



An EXPLANATION of the PROSPECTIVE-PLAN of the BATTLE near Lake G E O R G E, September 8, 1755; containing a full, though short, History of that important Affair.

N. B. *The Figures 1, 2, 3, &c. answer to the same Figures, as they are placed on the Prospect, and explain what is there represented to the Eye.*

The first Engagement.

1. THE Road from the Camp to Lyman's Fort, in which Road a Detachment of 1000 *English*, and about 150 *Indians*, with *Hendrick* the *Mohawk Sachem* among them, were marching in order to annoy the *Enemy*, who, it was supposed, were attacking the Fort, or retreating from it.

2. The *Form* in which the *French* and *Indians* appeared, being like that of a *Hook*; for so they had placed themselves, extending a curve Line from their Front on each Side of the Road, near half a Mile on the Right, and about one half that Space on the Left. They had Opportunity to do this, as they had received Intelligence from a Scout they had sent out, that a considerable Body of our Men were marching in order to oppose them. The Reason of their thus forming themselves was this;—on the *Left* of the Road, all along the Line they had placed themselves in, they had the Advantage of being covered with a thick growth of *Brush* and *Trees*, such as is common to *swampy Land* as this was: On the Right, they were all along defended, as with a *Breast-work*, by a *continued Eminence* filled with *Rocks*, and *Trees*, and *Shrubs* as high as a Man's Breast. Our Men, while marching in the Road, were within 150 Yards of the *En-*

emy, who lay *invisible* on either Side. They had posted themselves in the most advantageous Place there was between the *Camp* and the *Fort* for an *Ambuscade*. And considering this, together with their great Superiority in Numbers, being upwards of 2000, 'tis a wonder they had not entirely routed and destroyed this Detachment. Our Men must have behaved with the utmost Bravery, and Wisdom too, or they could not have made so honourable a Retreat, killing even more of the *Enemy*, than they lost themselves; as the *French General* owned, after he was taken: Tho', in this Fight, which began about two Miles and an half from the *Camp*, our loss, both of Officers and private men, was much greater than in the other *Battle*.

3. *Hendrick*, the *Indian Chief*, or *King* of the *Six Nations*, who was dressed after the *English* manner. He only was on *Horse-back*, because he only could not well travel on *Foot*, being somewhat corpulent as well as old. He fell in this Fight to the great Enrageament of the *Indians*, and our loss; as he was a very good Friend to the *English*, and had most Influence to keep the *Mohawks* so.

4. Our Men represented as breaking their Order, and hastily running. Their Design herein was to gain the *Advantage* of the *Eminence* on the Right; but the *Enemy* having un-

An Explanation of the Prospective-Plan

unhappily got the Possession of it, rose up from the *Rocks*, and *Shrubs*, and from behind the *Trees*, when our Men came within sure Reach of their Guns, and made a considerable Slaughter among them. The trees were thinly scattered where our Men were thus fired upon, and the *Shrubs* but low : However they made the best use of them they could, and continued Fighting here for some Time with the greatest resolution. The greater Part that were killed in this Fight, whether of the Enemy, or of our People, were found the next Day at this *Ambuscade*, or not far distant from it ; tho' they lay scattered more or less all the Way to the Camp.

5. An advanced Party of *Indians*, who first discovered the Enemy, and fired upon them ; which gave the Alarm to our Men, began a very furious and desperate Fight, and led the Enemy, by our Retreating from them, into the Engagement they afterwards had with the Army at the Camp.

The second Engagement.

6. The Appearance of the *Canadians* and *Indians*, as they made their approach to our Camp, and began their Fire within about 140 Yards of the Breast-work (such as it was) about its Front. It is to be noted here, after the first Fire, both the *Canadians* and *Indians* became *invisible* to our Men, by squatting below the under-growth of *Shrubs*, and *Brakes*, or by concealing themselves behind the *Trees*, only when they rose up with their Heads above the former, and discovered Part of their Bodies from behind the latter, in order to make their Fire after they had charged their Muskets.

7. A View of the *Regulars*, supposed to be about 4 or 500, drawn up in Order, and beginning their Fire in Platoons : Tho' it is to be observed, they kept their Order but a little while ; for after the Discharge of our Cannon once, or twice at most, they went into the *Indian Way* of Fighting, squatting below the *Shrubs*, or placing themselves behind the *Trees*. And indeed, had they not done thus, they must all have soon been destroyed ; as our

People took sight, and were all good Mark's-men.

8. The Road we had cleared, leading from the Camp to the Fort at the Carrying-Place. And this was the only clear Ground there was. All the rest was in its natural State of Wildness, covered with *Pitch-Pine* Trees, and a thick under-growth of *Shrubs* interspersed with *Brakes*, both Waist-high.

9. The *Form* in which our Men were placed when the Action begun, and in which they remained during its whole Continuance, only as they might somewhat alter their Posture while loading their Muskets.

10. The *Breast-work* Gen. *Johnson* speaks of in his Letter ; which was nothing more than the Bodies of Trees laid singly on the Ground. They were hastily fell'd while our Men were retreating from the former Battle, and not in Number sufficient to lie all of them contiguous to each other. The under-growth also was all cleared away about the Camp ; for which Reason, the Enemy were better defended than we were.

11. Three heavy Cannon in the Front, which did not do the Execution we should have been glad of, while the *Regulars* were together ; and afterwards they were, in a Manner, useless : Nor were they discharged more than 4 or 5 Times.

12. The Field-Piece on the *Eminence* mentioned by General *Johnson* in his Letter ; and not fired more than once or twice.

13. A long large wind-fallen Tree, upon a rising Spot of Ground, within 18 Rods of our Breast-work, behind which a Number of *Indians* posted themselves, and did us Mischief.

14. The Manner in which a great Number of the Enemy (chiefly *Indians*) ran *naked*, [for it is their Manner to fight without any other covering than a Flap over those Parts it is decent should be concealed] in order to reach a Swamp on our Right Wing ; where, having posted themselves, they were under Advantage to do us Damage ; and from hence it was we received most hurt.

15. A Ridge of Land, 15 Rods distant from our Men, behind which some Hundreds of

of the Enemy (mostly Indians) covered themselves; not being obliged to discover more than the Tops of their Heads, and not these, only when they were about to Fire. Here also was a wind-fallen Tree, which added to their Safety.

16. Col. *Titcomb*, and Lieut. *Barron*, that they might fire at the Enemy with greater Advantage, got behind this large Tree; tho' at a Rod's Distance from the Breast-work: And here it was they both unhappily fell, being insensibly flanked by some of the Enemy.

17. The Guards, as placed about the Camp, consisting of more than 500 Men. This lessened the Number of those who were in Action; bringing it down to about 1500.

18. Wet swampy Land, not at all cleared on our right Wing, which gave the Enemy great Advantage.

19. Two Gullies, which, together with the swampy Land within the Camp, occasioned the Tents of the several Regiments to be placed in the Form they are here represented, however irregular or inconvenient.

20. Cannon pointed all the Ways in which the Enemy could attack us, with a Number of Men to make use of them. Here was the Place where we kept our Powder, Shot, Shells, &c.

21. Waggon placed so as to be a kind of Battery to the Guard and Cannon about our Powder, &c.

22. Our Magazine of Powder.

23. Our Store of Shot of various Sizes.

24. Our Shells of various Sizes.

25. Two Mortars, from the smallest of which two Shells were thrown into the Swamp on our right Wing, supposed to be full of Indians.

26. A Causey 12 Rods in length, extending through the swampy miry Land between the Camp and the Edge of the Lake.

27. The Battoes in the Lake.

28. Store-Houses, not finished, for the use of the several Regiments.

29. A Log-House, in which the Prisoners were kept till they were sent to Albany.

30. The *Mohawks* running to the Breast-

work to join our Men, who were now, and had for some Time been, in Action. The Reason why they did not join them at first was this;—when they retreated from the first Battle, they went to their Camp, beyond the Swamp on our right Wing, to take Care of the Squaws and Children they had brought with them; and having conducted them to the safest Place, which took some Time, they then hastened in the Form here represented to join the Army in the Fight.

31. General *Johnson's* Tent.

32. General *Lyman's* Tent, and the Tents of his Regiment.

33. Col. *Harris's* Tent, and the Tents of his Regiment.

34. Col. *Cockroft's* Tent, and the Tents of his Regiment.

35. Col. *Williams's* Tent, and the Tents of his Regiment.

36. Col. *Ruggles's* Tent, and the Tents of his Regiment.

37. Col. *Titcomb's* Tent, and the Tents of his Regiment.

38. Col. *Gutridge's* Tent, and the Tents of his Regiment.

39. Officers, who appear very few in Number; because so mixed with the private Men, while in Action, as to be undistinguished from them.

The third or last Engagement between a Party of our Men, and a greater Party of the Enemy, I have not represented to the Eye; but the History of it is, in brief, this.

—They heard at Fort *Lyman*, between 9 and 10 o'Clock, the Noise of a Multitude of Guns; and, as it continued without Interruption, they judged our Army at the Camp was attacked by a large Body of *French* and *Indians*: Upon which it was thought proper to detach between 2 and 300 Men to their Assistance. This Detachment consisted partly of *Yorkers*, but mostly of *New-Hampshire* Troops, and was put under the Command of Capt. *Ginnis* and Cap^r. *Folsom*. They arrived between 4 and 5 o'Clock at the Place where the *French* encamped the Night before, which

An Explanation of the Prospective-Plan

which was near the Place where the Fight began in the Morning ; and here they discovered about 500 of the Enemy (chiefly Indians,) who had fled from the Battle at the Camp : Upon which they fell upon them, drove them from the Encampment, and pursued them till the Evening came on, making a considerable Slaughter among them. Our Loss was small ; but, by all Accounts, an Hundred of the Enemy were killed. Our Men loaded themselves with their Packs, and left great Numbers behind that they could not carry away ; which were brought in the next Day, with as much Ammunition, Provisions, and other Plunder, as filled 4 or 5 Waggons. Their Flight was so hasty, that they dropt some of the Scalps of our Men, which we recovered.

Upon the whole, the Day of this Action, the 8th of September, may well be recorded in the *New-England Annals*, as one of our most memorable Days. The greatest Battle was now fought, and the greatest Victory obtained, that we can yet tell of. The Number of the Enemy is thought to have been between 2 and 3000. Our Number, inclusive of Indians, is known to have been about 2250 : Though it ought to be remembered here, not more than 1500 English were in Action at the Camp, (the rest being employed as Guards) which, with the Indians, will fall short of 1800. The wounded on our Side are 94 English, about 12 Indians ; the missing, 61 ; the killed, 126 English, and about 20 Indians. Among our Slain are two Colonels, one Major, about 12 Captains and 2 and 3 Lieutenants. How many of the Enemy were wounded, or missing, we can't tell ; but we have abundant Reason to think 700 of them at least were killed. This we collect partly from the Numbers of their Dead we found within a few Days ; partly, from the Numbers (50 in one Place) we have since found that were concealed ; partly, from the Scores of Biers we have found in a bloody Hue ; partly, from the offensive Stench which has been smelt in all Places within 6 or 7 Miles of the Camp ; and partly also, from the dead

Bodies our Scouts have found in many Places, even as far as *Crown-Point*. The French General is a Prisoner in our Hands ; and from him, with the other Prisoners, we learn, that most of their Officers were slain ; in particular, their Major-General ; and St. Pierre, the chief Commander of the Indians.

I shall only say, I heartily wish our Troops, in Spite of all Difficulties, may yet proceed on the projected Expedition against *Fort-Frederick*, tho' the Season is far advanced ; and if they should, I shall expect soon to hear it is in English Hands.

As to the Plan I have given of *Hudson's River* ; it is partly designed for the Direction of Navigation, and partly to convey a more plain Idea of the Difficulty of the Carriage from *Albany* to *Lake-George*, to which Difficulty it is principally ascribed that our Army has not, as yet, been able to proceed any further on the intended Expedition :

The River is navigable from *New-York* to *Albany* ; and though the Tide flows as far as the Mouth of the *Mohawk's River*, it does not set or run up, further than the *Flats*, in Summer Season ; that is, not more than about 6 Miles from *Albany*. 'Tis observable, the Time of *High-Water* at the aforesaid *Flats* and *New-York*, is one and the same ; tho' it is dead *low Water* at that Time at *Sopus*, which is half Way from *New-York* to the said *Flats* ; the Occasion whereof is the Length of the River. As I have given two Scales ; one for the Length, and another for the Breadth of the River, with a Compas ; any Person, acquainted with the Names of the Places here mentioned, may very easily, without being at the Charge of a *Pilot*, proceed from the former to the latter of these Cities, by attending to the *Marks* here laid down for his Direction : In order whereto, it is to be noted, the *pricked Line* stands for the *Channel* ; the *dotted Places* for *Shoals* or *Flats* that will take up any common Sloop ; and the Mark *+++* for *sunken Rocks*. The first *Flat* or *Shoal* is at *Tappaansee*, the second at the *Glass-House* at *New-Winsor*, &c. On the East Side of the River,

River, against the House of Mr. Martin Hoffman, is as difficult a *Flat* as any. The Channel here shoots first to the East and then to the West, &c. After you have got past *Kenderbook*, if you incline to the East Side of the Islands, you must give the Point a Birth, and you will find 11 or 12 Feet of Water for Miles together and a sandy Bottom. Keep the Middle of the River till you come up with the westermost Island, where the *pricked Channel* meers; keep this Island close a-board for near 20 Rods, then bare over to the East Side gradually, as the *Channel* will shew itself if you observe the Current; for there is the *upper Overflow*, or *Reaf of Sand*, at high Water 6 Feet Depth, or more, every common Tide. As to the West Side of the three Islands, I have given it as near the Truth as I could by the Description I had from the *Pilot*, not passing that Way myself.

The River from *Albany* to *Lyman's Fort* has such a Multitude of torn *Falls*, and *Reefs*, and is so extremely rapid in its Motion, especially in these Places, that it was with infinite Difficulty our Men could get the Battoes, as filled with Stores, to the Carrying-Place. Many Hundreds of them were employed in this Business. It took them much Time, and immense Labour. They were obliged to be so often, and so long, in the Water to force them along, that many of them fell sick, and others became so infirm as to be capable of little Service. Instead therefore of conveying our Provisions and Stores any more by Water, it is done from *Albany* by Land. The *pricked Line* from *Albany* to *Lake George* represents the *Waggon Road* in which all our Stores are carried. This *Road*, you may observe, crosses the *three Branches* the *Mohawks River* divides itself into, each Branch being about 30 Rods wide, and yet *fordable*, at least in the Summer Season, not being more than 20 Inches or at most 2 Feet deep. The Road in general, the whole Way from *Albany* to *Lake George* is plain and easy, with but few Hills, and these not high and difficult; and tho' it crosses the River at *Saratoga*, this is easily done in Sum-

mer, as the Water then does not exceed three Feet in Depth, or half a Foot more at the largest Allowance.

As to Fort *Lyman*, (now called Fort *EDWARD*) of which I have given a Plan, it is planted upon the Edge of the Bank of *Hudson's River*, so as that the River serves instead of a Trench upon the Western Side, its Bank being near 30 Feet in Height from the Water, very steep. In like Manner, the small Brook pointed out in the Plan, serves the same End on the South Side, its Bank being equally steep and high, though the Stream is small.— Thus the Fort, being planted in the Crotch that is formed by the River and Brook, is advantagiously situated, and impregnably defended on these two Sides, with the Help of only a little Labour and Art.

I have only to add, that I've received from a Friend a Sketch of Fort *WILLIAM HENRY*, which is not as yet compleated: This Fort is built at *Lake GEORGE*, and is equally defended as Fort *EDWARD*; being planted in the Crotch of Land formed by the Lake and the Brook that empties itself into the said Lake. The Banks are somewhat higher than those at Fort *EDWARD*, and equally steep. On the Westermost Part of this Fort is a Mountain near two Miles from the Fort to the Top of it: This Mountain being very steep and high, the Enemy can receive no Advantage from it, unless they can look from the Top into our Fort; but as the Trees are very thick, it will in a great Measure prevent their taking a proper View thereof. As the Dimensions of this Fort is in Figures on every Angle, I shall only mention the Height and Thickness of its Walls, which are as follows, the Foundation 32 Feet thick; the Parapets, 16 Feet thick, and is 12 or 14 Feet high, where it is finished: It is built of Pine Logs, and filled up with Earth; and somewhat larger than Fort *EDWARD*, and is supposed (if well mann'd) able to withstand all *Canada*.

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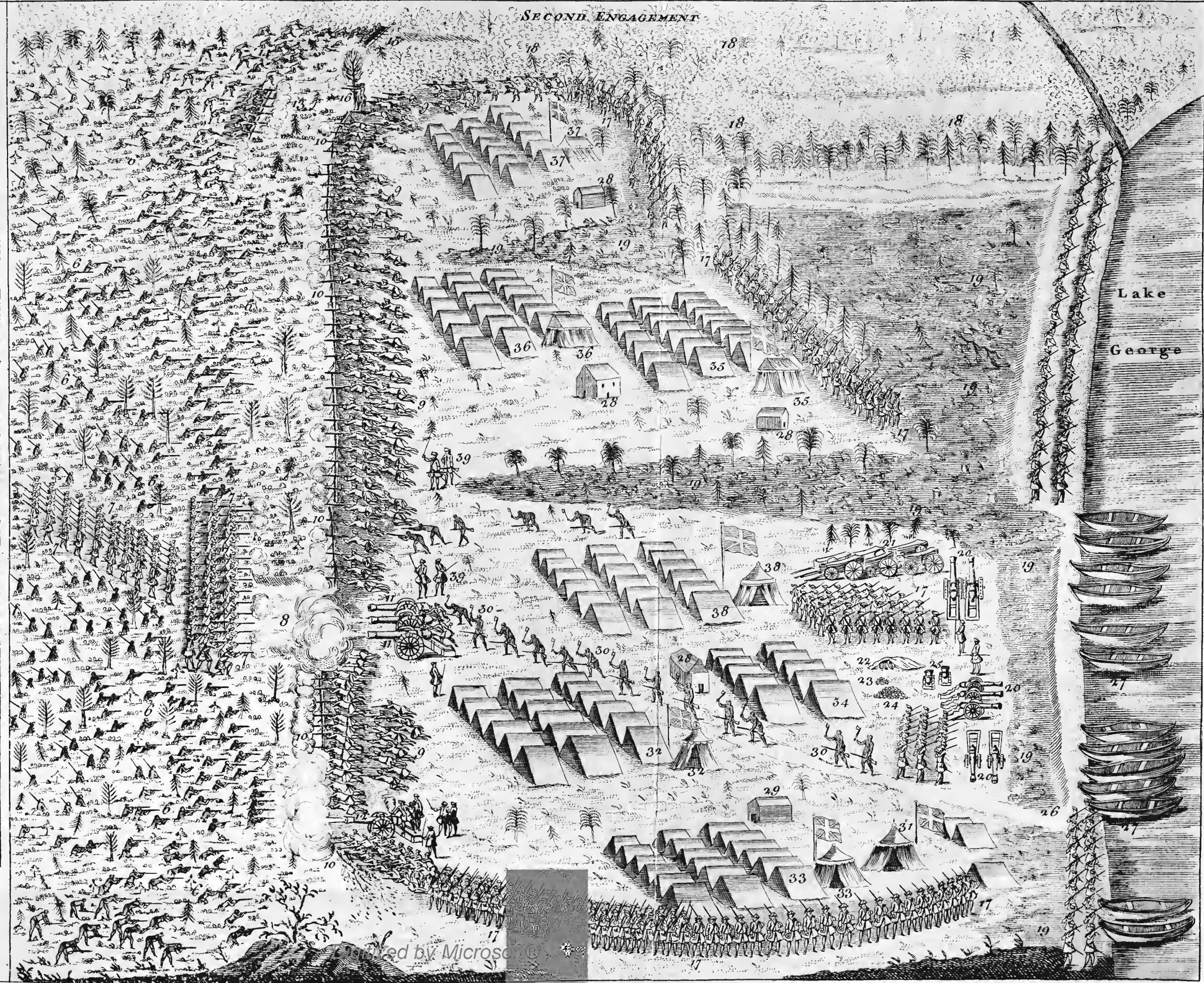
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of the BATTLE fought near Lake George, on the 8th. of Sep^r. 1755, between 2000 English, with 250 Mohawks, French & Indians under the command of GEN^r. DIESKAT in which the English were victorious capturing the French Gen^r. with a Number of his Men killing 700 & putting the rest to flight.

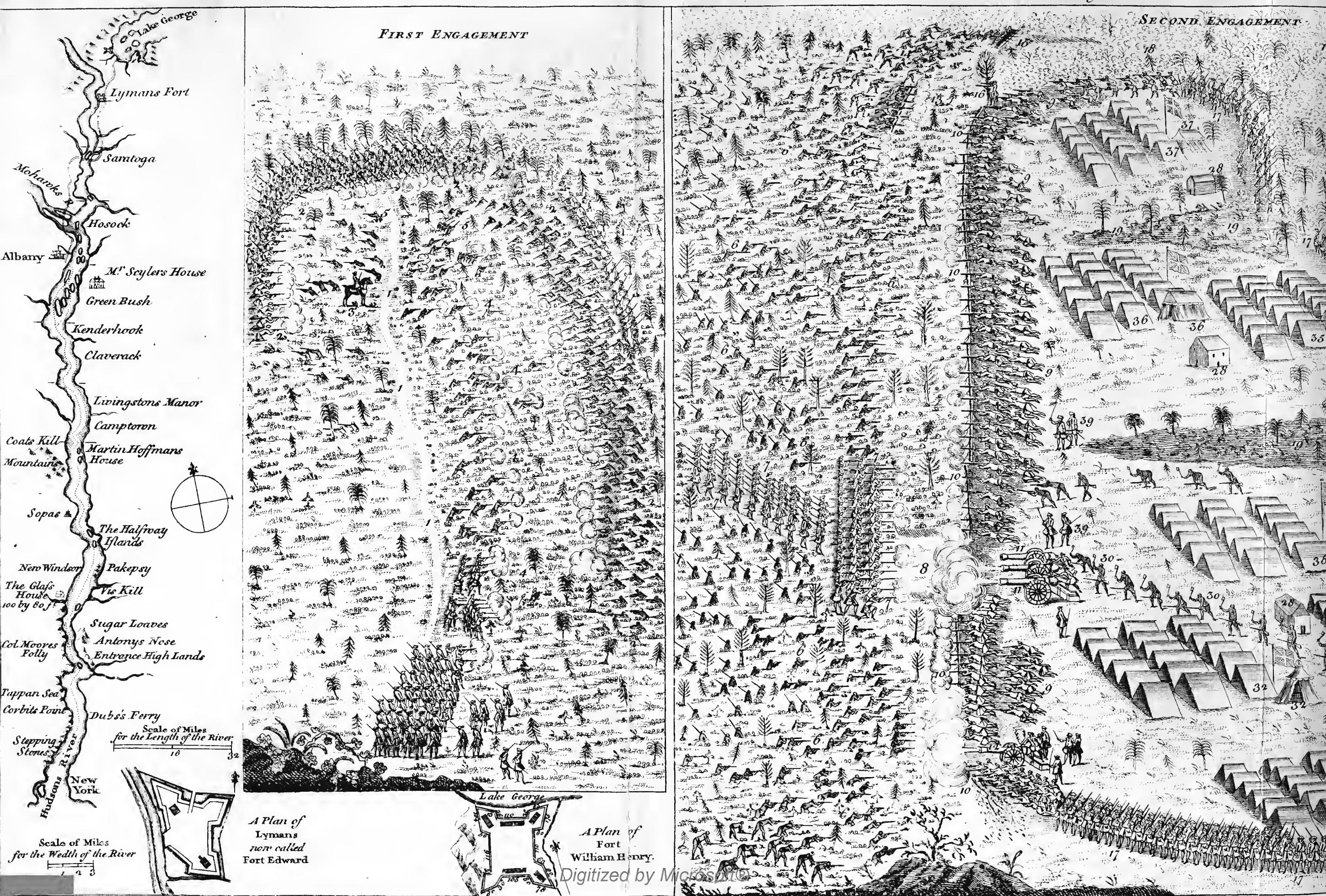
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A Plan of
Fort
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